



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council

**Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson**

**Tuesday, July 17, 2012**

**7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

#### REGULAR MEETING

#### I. ROLL CALL

*The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Mayor Somers.*

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Antipas and Councilor Streeter

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by the Center Groton Fire Department.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

##### 2012-0203 Proclamation Honoring Richard and Dorothy Wilson

Read

*The proclamation was read by Mayor Somers.*

##### Groton 4th of July Parade Awards

*Manager of Recreation Services Jerry Lokken thanked all of those who participated in this year's 4th of July parade. Ron McGory and Christene Gunther presented awards to parade winners as follows: Best Costume to Chelsea Groton Bank, Best Use of Theme to Westbrook Junior Colonials Fife and Drum Corps, Best Music to Yalesville Fife and Drum Corps, Youth Participation to Highland Farms Vocational Agricultural Center, Best Float to Wayne's Barber Shop, Most Patriotic to the Second Continental Light Dragoons, and Judges' Choice to the Center Groton Fire Department.*

#### IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Jim Bates, 11 Conrad Street, Mystic, representing the Groton Business Association, stated that a brochure has been generated entitled Discover Groton which is comprised of a map of the greater Groton area along with information on historic sites, recreational opportunities, and local attractions. Mr. Bates noted that proceeds from the Groton Fall Festival were used to pay for the brochure, and the goal is to encourage people to use its website to find out more about Groton.*

*Kevin Trejo, 536 Shennecossett Road, stated that Groton has been awarded 20 more State-funded preschool seats, bringing the total amount of State-funded seats for Groton's early childhood centers to 33.*

#### V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*None.*

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0217 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of June 26, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items****2012-0209 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Trillium Garden Club - \$400.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
Ryan Connolly - \$117.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
Mystic Garden Club - \$600.00 - Jabez Smith House  
Knights of Rizal - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
Charles Rogers - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Mark Bassler - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$6.95 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Audrey Burgess - \$3.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Donna Lane - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Demetrios Orphanides - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Lionel and Fay Taylor - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Anne Wimsey - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
City of Groton - \$261.63 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List****2012-0148 Tax Abatement/Deferral/Exemption Programs - Update**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2012-0210 Historic Documents Preservation Grant (2013)**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2012-0216 Voting District Changes**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2012-0218 Setting Public Hearing on Sandy Hollow Road Resurfacing**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.  
The motion carried unanimously

**VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)****a. Town Councilors**

*Councilors received a letter regarding the proposed blight ordinance and participated in the 4th of July parade.*

*Councilor O'Beirne stated that his hearing has deteriorated and despite the best technology, he cannot hear some of what is being said during meetings. He feels that he should not be voting without hearing the entire conversation, and for this reason, he has tendered his resignation. He thanked everyone for the support they have provided and stated that it has been a privilege to serve on the Council.*

*The Mayor and Councilors remarked that Councilor O'Beirne will be missed, and acknowledged his dedication to the community.*

*Councilor Watson cooked for sailors at the barbecue that was held at the Shennecossett Yacht Club for OpSail 2012.*

*Mayor Somers attended meetings with the Chairman of the Board of Education, a joint meeting of the Town Council and Board of Education, Mystic Streetscape meetings and a meeting with the Mystic Art Association, and attended the OpSail 2012 Captains Ball. She noted that business has picked up in downtown Mystic and the Mystic Art Association parking lot will be free for the first two hours until August 5, 2012.*

*Councilor Flax noted that the Mystic Little League has been doing well with some age groups continuing on to the semi-finals.*

*Councilor Johnson has attended Mystic Schooners baseball games and noted that they will play a double-header on July 27, 2012.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*The next regular RTM meeting will be held on August 8, 2012.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*The Town Clerk announced that absentee ballots will be available July 24, 2012, for the Senate and Congressional Primaries that will be held on August 14, 2012.*

**d. Town Manager**

*The Town Manager noted that Jim Becker was the winner of the 30th Connecticut Senior Open held at Shennecossett Golf Course. He announced that Eric Morrison was the first recipient of the Morrison Award,"named in his honor, which was given for exceptional service to the Connecticut Senior Open. Mr. Oefinger stated that a Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for July 21, 2012, at the Flanders Road Transfer Station.*

**e. Town Attorney**

*No report.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne**

*No meeting, no report.*

**f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax**

*Councilor Flax read the minutes of July 10, 2012, which are on file at the Town Clerk's office.*

**g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter**

*No meeting, no report.*

**h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas**

*No meeting, no report.*

**i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers**

*Mayor Somers noted that the Committee of the Whole discussed voting districts and a public hearing date for Sandy Hollow Road.*

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**2012-0210 Historic Documents Preservation Grant (2013)**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A CONTRACT FOR A HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton will benefit by the continuance of the Historic Document Preservation Program which will be enabled and enhanced by grant funding, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager of the Town of Groton, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

**A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2012-0216 Voting District Changes**

RESOLUTION CHANGING VOTING DISTRICT LINES

WHEREAS, the State Reapportionment Commission has redrawn the boundaries of Assembly Districts 40 and 41 based on the census of 2010, and Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 9-169b requires that the municipal legislative body approve new voting district lines, and

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 9-169 does not allow voting district lines to conflict with the lines of congressional districts, senate districts or assembly districts, and

WHEREAS, the Town's Registrars of Voters find it necessary to redraw the lines of the portions of Districts 1, 4 and 5 that are in conflict with the new assembly district lines, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the lines of the Town of Groton Voting Districts that conflict with the new assembly district lines be redrawn in conformity with the assembly districts as redrawn by the State Reapportionment Commission. (See attached map.)

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2012-0218 Setting Public Hearing on Sandy Hollow Road Resurfacing**

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER RESURFACING OF SANDY HOLLOW ROAD, A DESIGNATED SCENIC ROAD

WHEREAS, on January 19, 1999, by resolution, the Town Council designated Sandy Hollow Road as a Scenic Road according to Town ordinances, Sec. 13.5-121 to 13.5-124, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Department of Public Works has recommended resurfacing of Sandy Hollow Road, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the resurfacing of Sandy Hollow

Road on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall Annex Community Room 1.

**A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2012-0219 Appointment of William Everett as a Regular Member of the Historic District Commission**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING WILLIAM EVERETT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that William C. Everett, 1 Prospect Street, Mystic, is hereby appointed as a regular member (from an alternate member) to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/12.

**Re-referred**

*This item was re-referred to the Town Council Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee for further discussion.*

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*